

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 /026 W

----- 088646

R 290350Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9868

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 3777

E.O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: ETRN, AF, PK

SUBJ: CIVAIR- PAK/AFGHAN AIR SERVICE

REFERENCES: (A) STATE 92524

(B) KARACHI 727 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. NO SCHEDULED AIR SERVICE OF ANY KIND NOW EXISTS BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN. ISSUE OF RESUMPTION OF PIA-AIRANA AIR LINKS HAS BEEN DORMANT FOR SIX MONTHS AND NEITHER SIDE IS MAKING ANY MOVES TO WORK OUT NEW AGREEMENT. END UNCLASSIFIED. IN ISLAMABAD, EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED CONFLICTING INFORMATION FROM MFA AND AFGHANISTAN EMBASSY ON NEGOTIATION ISSUE. MFA DIRECTOR CLAIMS THAT NEITHER SIDE HAS EVER TAKEN ANY INITIATIVE TO RE-NEGOTIATE AIR SERVICE, BUT AFGHANISTAN CHARGE' CLAIMS HE DID SO SIX MONTHS AGO WITH PM BHUTTO BUT WAS TURNED DOWN. END SUMMARY.

1. CONGEN KARACHI REPORTS THAT DGCA AND PIA OFFICIAL SIN KARACHI HAVE STATED THAT NO NEGOTIATIONS TOWARD RESUMPTION PREVIOUS AIR SERVICE BETWEEN AFHGNISTAN ND PAKISTAN HAVE TAKEN PLACE SINCE LAST SUMMER AND NONE ARE CONTEMPLATED. DGCA RIZVI SPOKE OF "HARRASSMENT" OF REMAINING PIA STAFF IN KABUL IN LATE SUMMER AND FALL OF 1974, WHICH TOGETHER WITH COMPLETE CANCELLATION OF PIA SERVICE BETWEEN PESHAWAR AND

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KABUL , LED TO DECISION TO CLOSE DOWN PIA OFFICE IN THAT CITY.

PIA DIRECTOR MARKET AND SALES ENVER JAMALL INFORMED DPO THAT ALTHOUGH PIA HAS NO PLANS TO REOPEN SERVICE, OWING TO CONTINUED IMPASSE OVER AIRANA FIFTH FREEDOM RIGHTS INTO AND OUT OF LAHORE, EQUIPMENT REMAINS IN PIA OFFICE AT KABUL AND SERVICE COULD, IF SITUATION CHANGED, BE RESUMED AT ONCE.

2. RESUMPTION LIMITED ONCE WEEKLY SERVICE FROM PESHAWAR TO KABUL, CONTINUED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1974 WHEN SERVICE WAS REDUCED TO ONE FLIGHT EVERY TWO WEEKS. IN NOVEMBER 1974 PIA SERVICE BETWEEN KABUL AND PESHAWAR WAS COMPLETELY DISCONTINUED, OWING, ACCORDING TO PIA, TO AFGHAN LIMITATION ON PASSENGERS TO FIVE PER FLIGHT WHICH, IN RELATION TO 40-PASSENGER CAPACITY OF FOKKER TURBO PROP AIRCRAFT USED ON THAT ROUTE, WAS CLEARLY UNECONOMICAL.

3. EMBASSY COMMENTS: DURING CALL APRIL 24 ON MFA DIRECTOR (AFGHANISTAN) GHORI BY E/C COUNSELOR AND EMBOFF, GHORI SAID THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO MOVEMENT ON THIS ISSUE FOR MANY MONTHS. HE CLAIMED THAT NEITHER SIDE HAD TAKEN ANY INITIATIVE WHATSOEVER TO RESUME AIR LINKS.

4. THE NEXT DAY E/C COUNSELOR CALLED ON AFGHAN CHARGE' DR. SHERZOY AND RECEIVED A CONTRARY ACCOUNT. SHERZOY CLAIMED THAT DURING HIS MEETING WITH PM BHUTTO ABOUT SIX MONTHS AGO HE SHERZOY PROPOSED AS A FIRST STEP TO IMPROVING OVERALL BILATERAL TIES THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES WORK OUT A NEW BILATERAL AVIATION ARRANGEMENT. SHERZOY THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL AND CLAIMED THAT AFGHANISTAN WAS PREPARED TO WORK OUT A NEW AVIATION AGREEMENT THAT WOULD BE SATISFACTORY TO BOTH SIDES. ACCORDING TO SHERZOY, BHUTTO TURNED DOWN THIS OFFER AND SAID THAT THIS WAS NOT AN APPROPRIATE TIME TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS. AS A RESULT OF THIS REBUFF SHERZOY SAID THAT AFGHANISTAN HAS NOT TRIED AGAIN TO RAISE THE SUBJECT.

5. SHERZOY ADDED THAT HE WAS PERSONALLY SATISFIED THAT PIA'S CURTAILMENT OF AIRANA SERVICE BETWEEN KABUL AND LAHORE HAD BEEN PRIMARILY MOTIVATED BY ECONOMIC AND NOT POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. HE SAID THAT THE PAK'S ACHIEVED CANCELLATION WITHOUT DENOUNCING BILATERAL AIR

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AGREEMENT BY SLAPPING ON A \$2000 LANDING FEE FOR EVERY AIRANA LANDING AT LAHORE. AFGHANISTAN ON ITS SIDE CONTINUED TO PERMIT PIA TO FLY ITS ROUTE(PESHAWAR-KABUL) FOR A FURTHER FOUR MONTHS AND THEN ASKED PIA TO STOP THAT SERVICE SINCE AIRANA WAS BEING SHUT OUT OF LAHORE. SHERZOY CLAIMED THAT HIS EMBASSY WAS ISSUING 200 VISAS A DAY TO PAKISTANIS GOING OVERLAND TO KABUL TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE LOWER AIR FARES BETWEEN KABUL AND EUROPE.

6. EMBASSY SHARES CONGEN KARACHI'S VIEW THAT GIVEN PRESENT
BAD STATE OF POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE TWO
COUNTRIES, THERE IS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF ANY NEW INITIATIVES
IN NEAR FUTURE TOWARD A NEW BILATERAL AIR ARRANGEMENT.
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